

## **A Scriptural Defense of Eternal Security**

*by Tommy Crawford*

### **Introduction**

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## **Eternal Security**

Eternal Security is that work of God which guarantees that the gift of salvation, once received, is possessed forever and cannot be lost. Since security rests on God's guarantees, its truthfulness does not rest on my feelings or experiences — C. Ryrie, *So Great Salvation*

This doctrine teaches that those whom God has chosen before the foundations of the world and efficaciously called into saving faith and regenerated by His Holy Spirit can never lose salvation but shall be preserved in a state of salvation to the final hour and be eternally saved. — J. Dillow, *The Reign of the Servant Kings*

### **The Hope of Eternal Life**

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## **The Secure Hope of Eternal Life is the Crux of our Faith**

**Resurrection: without the hope of an eternity in the presence of the Lord our faith is empty**

**1 Corinthians 15:16-19** For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.

**Confidence in your faith: if you have received Jesus Christ as your Savior, you can know apart from works that you possess eternal life**

**1 John 5:11-13** And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

## **Reasons for Security due to God's Power**

**Omnipotence: God is all-powerful and able to do anything consistent with His nature**

**Revelation 1:8** "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

**Matthew 19:26** "With people this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

**2 Corinthians 13:4** For indeed He was crucified because of weakness, yet He lives because of the power of God. For we also are weak in Him, yet we will live with Him because of the power of God directed toward you.

**1 Corinthians 6:14** Now God has not only raised the Lord, but will also raise us up through His power.

**God cannot lie: God is faithful to bring to pass what He promises, including our salvation**

**Titus 1:2** "in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago"

**Hebrews 6:18-19** so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil

**Numbers 23:19** "God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent; Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"

**1 Corinthians 1:9** God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**2 Corinthians 1:20** For as many as are the promises of God, in Him they are yes; therefore also through Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us.

**1 Thessalonians 5:24** Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.

**Philippians 1:6** For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.

**2 Timothy 2:13** If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.

## **God's power: sufficient to keep us saved for all time**

**John 10:28-29** “and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.”

**1 Peter 1:3-5** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

**Jude 24** Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy,

**2 Timothy 1:12** for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.

## **The Will of God: we were chosen before time to be sons and to be glorified in heaven**

**Ephesians 1:3-6** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

**Romans 8:29-30** For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

## **The Glory of God: the Lord in the One who maintains our salvation, so we are unable to boast**

**Ephesians 1:6** to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

**Ephesians 1:13-14** In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.

**2 Corinthians 1:20** For as many as are the promises of God, in Him they are yes; therefore also through Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us.

## **Reasons for Security due to Christ**

### **Christ's love: it is inseparable from us**

**Romans 8:38-39** For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### **Christ's sacrifice: made once for all when He died on the cross**

**Hebrews 10:10-14** By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. And every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins; but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time onward until His enemies be made a footstool for His feet. For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.

**Hebrews 9:12** and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.

**1 Peter 3:18** For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit;

**Colossians 2:13-14** When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross

**2 Corinthians 5:21** He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

**1 John 2:2** and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.

### **Christ's blood: sufficient apart from our works to save us from God's wrath**

**Romans 5:9-11** For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

**John 19:30** Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

**Hebrews 10:18** Now where there is forgiveness of these things, there is no longer any offering for sin.

## **Christ's prayers: continually made for us, that we may be with Him in heaven to see His glory**

**John 17:24** "Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

**Romans 8:34** Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

**Hebrews 7:25** Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

## **Christ's prayers: always perfect, always heard, and always according to God's Will**

**John 11:41-42** Then Jesus raised His eyes, and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. I knew that You always hear Me; but because of the people standing around I said it, so that they may believe that You sent Me."

**John 6:39-40** "This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day."

## **Christ's words: believe in His truth, and you have eternal life**

**John 5:24** "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.

## **The Power of the Holy Spirit**

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## **The Nature of Salvation**

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### **Salvation by Grace, not works**

**Faith: simply believing and receiving His promises does not involve promising good works in exchange for salvation**

**Ephesians 2:8-9** For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

**Titus 3:4-5** But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit

**Romans 3:23-24** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;

**John 1:12** But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name

**Romans 4:5** But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness

## **The Law and works: imperfect to provide salvation**

**Romans 11:6** But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace.

**Galatians 2:21** "I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness comes through the Law, then Christ died needlessly."

**Galatians 2:16** nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified.

## **Abraham: saved by grace through faith in the Old Testament**

**Genesis 15:6** Then he believed in the Lord; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.

**Romans 4:2-3** For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."

**Romans 4:13-14** For the promise to Abraham or to his descendants that he would be heir of the world was not through the Law, but through the righteousness of faith. For if those who are of the Law are heirs, faith is made void and the promise is nullified;

**Romans 4:16** For this reason it is by faith, in order that it may be in accordance with grace, so that the promise will be guaranteed to all the descendants, not only to those who are of the Law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all

**Galatians 3:7-9** Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham. The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "All the nations will be blessed in you." So then those who are of faith are blessed with Abraham, the believer.

**Galatians 3:14** in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

## Freedom in Christ

**Our salvation is brought about by grace through faith, so we need not work to maintain it. We are free in Christ to fulfill the desires of our new nature: to serve the Lord through love, not obligation.**

**2 Corinthians 5:17** Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

**Galatians 3:3** This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?

**Galatians 5:1** It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.

**Galatians 5:13** For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

**1 Peter 2:16** Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as bondslaves of God.